

Remarks:

Applicant previously filed preliminary remarks with the application on November 24, 2003. The preliminary remarks were directed to originally-filed claims 1-17. Applicant now adds claims 18-23, with the following accompanying remarks.

Independent claims 18 and 21 are similar to allowed claims 12 and 15, respectively, of the parent application, Serial No. 10/004,339. With respect to new independent claim 18, applicant has removed the recitation of a circuit board, has recited "at least one light source" instead of "a plurality of LEDs," has removed the recitation that "the light source assembly is removable and replaceable," and amended the remaining recitations of first, second, and third connectors accordingly.

Applicant submits that independent claim 18 is allowable over the prior art references of record in the parent application. In particular, applicant notes that the Examiner in the parent application allowed independent claim 12 upon inclusion of the limitations of the first, second, and third connectors. Such limitations are still presently found in new claim 18. The differences between new claim 18 and claim 12 of the parent application are not to any point of novelty, and as such, the differences should not affect the allowance of claim 18.

With respect to new independent claim 21, applicant has removed the recitation of "a circuit board," has recited "at least one light source" instead of "a plurality of LEDs," has removed the recitation of a light source operable to "provide over five thousand millicandellas of illumination," and has amended the remaining recitations accordingly. Applicant submits that the prior art

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references of record in the parent application do not teach or suggest a cordless microscope operable to provide over forty hours of continuous operation, as currently claimed in independent claim 21.

Given the above arguments and the arguments submitted in the preliminary remarks, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-23 should be in a condition for allowance. Any claims not discussed in either the preliminary remarks or the preliminary amendment depend directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 7, 12, 18, and 21 and thus, should be in a condition for allowance.

In view of this amendment and the remarks herein, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-23 are in allowable condition and requests a Notice of Allowance. In the event of further questions, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned. Any additional fee which might be due in connection with this application should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

Respectfully submitted,

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